

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Elena Casellini

Serial No.: 10/680,747

Group Art Unit: 3676

Filed: October 7, 2003

Examiner: Gall, Lloyd A.

For: KEY COVER FOR A SHARED KEY

DECLARATION OF ELENA CASELLINI

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Elena Casellini, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the designer of the International Deposit Certificate DM/059 931 ('931).
2. The key covers disclosed in the '931 reference are formed by casting a base structure. The base structure provides opposite planar faces. The relief tactile features are not integrally formed onto the planar faces during formation of the base structure. Instead, the relief features according to the '931 reference are subsequently brazed or welded to the faces of the base structure.
3. It is my understanding the claims 1-10 and 12-19 of the patent application have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the '931 reference. The key covers disclosed in the '931 reference are significantly different from the key covers claimed in the subject patent application, because each key cover shown in the '931

reference is made from separately formed parts. The relief tactile features are made separately from the key cover and fixed to the side of the key cover in a separate process, such as brazing. In contrast, the key covers in the subject patent application are formed with the tactile features as a single, integrated piece. No subsequent fixing operations are necessary. This provides a significant time and cost advantage over the key covers disclosed in the '931 reference.

4. The '931 reference discloses a key cover made from at least two pieces, i.e. the key cover and the relief tactile feature, which are later assembled together by welding or brazing. The claimed invention, however, provides a key cover with the relief tactile feature integrally formed therewith. Therefore, it is my belief that the pending claims requiring an integrally formed tactile feature are not anticipated by the '931 reference.

5. I declare that all statement made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.


Elena Casellini

24 November 2004
Date